

ANIMADVERSIONS

ON A

Theology vol 123

PAPER

INTITULED

An ANSWER to some *Queries*.

By the Author of the *Reasons* against
Pushing, &c.

*He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace
with him : he hath broken his covenant.*

*The words of his mouth were smother than butter, but
war was in his heart : his words were softer than oyl,
yet were they drawn swords. Psalm. lv. 20, 21.*

*And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not
crowned except he strive lawfully. 2 Tim. ii. 5.*

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ANIMADVERSIONS

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PAPER, &c.

EXTREMES are always dangerous, the middle way is the safest. In the present Controversy about the Repeal of the *Corporation* and *Test-Acts*, some say that no time is so proper as the present; others again, with as bad a Grace, tell us that no time at all is proper. I who was willing to be a Moderator between the Hotspurs on both sides, was for advising as a Friend to wait a little, and would not have the *Protestant Dissenters* to be too eager, or to do any thing to disgust the Administration, to disturb the publick Peace, or to hurt themselves; and endeavour'd by some Reasons, and in a few Queries, to shew them the impropriety of pushing this matter at this Time; but however innocent and laudable a Man's Intentions are, some or other, we see, will take Offence.

Not long after the Publication of the *Reasons against Pushing*, out comes an Advertisement in a

News-paper, that an Answer to some Queries would within two Days be publish'd. I could have wish'd them far enough, for putting out the Advertisement, before the Day that the Paper was publish'd; for there was poor I threaten'd by some, and tiezing my self about the Answer.—Thinks I, it's time to keep a good look-out, we shall all be demolished if we be not careful. Well, after much inward fretting, I got a sight of this Paper, and no sooner had I clap'd my Eye upon the Title, but I was stunned, and startled; not at the Title itself, no, no, it is a very modest one I own; but at a certain Quotation out of a Letter (as the Answerer tells me) to *Samuel Halden Esq;* occasion'd by his Speech. It is this, “Great Heats have been among them (the *Dissenters*) and the Divisions they have occasion'd, have render'd the Menaces of that Body far less formidable than heretofore. And if it should farther appear, that their proneness to quarrel among themselves will not suffer them to agree, even in proper measures of attacking the establish'd Church, the World will be apt to take it for granted they can agree in Nothing.” I freely own I have not as yet seen this Letter, but I suppose this Paragrah is in it, because our Author has embellished his Title-page with it. *Prob pudor!* what will Men come to by and by! I may well cry out, *O tempora! O mores!* This is all *Cataline* and Conspiracy indeed! this is *THAME* all over. The Menaces of that Body far less formidable than heretofore! agree in proper Measures to attack the Church! I profess I don't understand this Language. *Menace* and *Attack!* I hope by Menaces the Letter-writer means no more than such as were used by the subscribing Ministers at *Salters-Hall* to their Brethren; *i. e.* earnest Expostulations and Entreaties to join with them; and by attacking he intends a friendly one, attacking in a rational and modest way, and not *vi & armis*; such a fort

sort of attacking as our Saviour meant when he bad his Disciples compel them to come in, *i. e.* by Perswasion and Argument. For if any thing more is intended, *horresco referens*, I desire to be out of the Secret. But be the meaning what it will, I who am a *Protestant Dissenter*, can't but conclude that an Enemy has done this. But then why should our Author clap this Sentence at the Front of his Paper? I suppose he might set it down only to shew the danger of being disconcerted; and as a sort of tacit Advice to the *Protestant Dissenters* to be unanimous; not that he adopts the whole as his own proper Sense: for tho our Author seems to be a Pusher by his Paper, yet sure he'll have more Prudence than to run his Head against a Church-wall, because he cannot but be sensible that it is so churlish it will not give way to his Noddle, but batter his poor Scul to pieces before he can make any Impression in it.

I hope my Answerer will excuse my little Excursions here, and pardon my jocoseness: I would not be so merry I assure him, if I durst have attack'd his Front with a grave Formality. But so much for the Title-page! come we now to the Body of the Book. I am glad that no Answer is made to my short Reasons and friendly Advice, so that I perceive these pass Muster. All the opposition I find is to my Queries, to which I must now attend. My first Query was this,

Whether the Interest and Influence of those of the National Church, who are well affected to the present Government, is not equal, if not superior to yours?

This Query, our Author says, scarce deserves an Answer, and that for this very substantial Reason; "because it supposes all those of the National Church who are well affected to the present Government, to be against any application to the
" Par-

“ Parliament, for explaining the *Corporation* and “ *Test-Acts*, as far as they relate to *Protestant Dis-* “ *senters.*” A Man must have a very odd turn’d Head who could so much as fancy that such a Supposition as this should be imply’d in the Query separately taken ; but if he look forward to the very next, one would have thought it almost impossible, that any one in his Senses should affirm that this Query supposes all those, &c. and yet such is the monstrous Supposition our profound Answerer draws from the Query. But no more of that, for I don’t desire to aggravate Inadvertencies, only I would humbly suppose, that our Author began to answer the Queries before he had read them over.

We will allow, with our Author, that “ many of “ the National Church (and I heartily wish there “ were more of them) who are best affected to the “ Government declare, that such an Explanation “ would be highly for the honour and service of the “ Church, and of the Clergy, and for the just Ease “ of the *Dissenters* :” but I don’t know that they declare, that it is “ for the better securing the Go- “ vernment in his Majesty’s Royal Person and Fa- “ mily, for the restoring and strengthening the Civil “ and Religious Liberties of the Subject, and for “ the better uniting Protestants both at Home and “ Abroad.” I don’t deny but the matter of this Declaration may be true, and I should be glad to find that the Majority of the National Church was in this way of thinking ; but this Paragraph is not what I have yet learn’d to be the Sense of many of the National Church, tho I am very sensible it is, with little Variation, in a certain first *Nem. Con.* Resolution : and it smells so rank of *Berks, Oxon* and *Bucks*, that I am almost tempted to think my Answerer was one of the numerous meeting of fifty four Gentlemen and Ministers, assembled at *Thame*, who gave into it.

My

My second Query was this.

Whether your pushing for the Repeal at this time, has not a tendency to disconcert and divide that Interest, by disgusting a great number of them, who used to be unanimous against the High-Church, in voting with you ?

To this our Author is pleas'd to reply, " The pushing for such an Explanation of the two Acts, as has been mention'd, has not a tendency to disgust the Interest above mentioned, or consequently to divide it; but on the contrary to strengthen and cement it." This is only begging the Question, and a meer *gratis dictum*. Our Author cannot but know that it has the abovementioned tendency; and that some at least, if not many, of the national Church are against pushing, either for the Repeal, or Explanation of the aforementioned Acts: unless by the many of the said Church which he says (in the answer to the foregoing Query) declare that such an Explanation would be highly for the honour and service of the Church, he means all: nay, he proceeds to tell us, that " if no Application is to be made for such an Explanation, till some are willing to give it, who sometimes vote with the *Dissenters* against the High-Church; no Application for such Explanation can ever be made." Now by some here who are unwilling to give this Explanation, he cannot mean none, any more than by the many who are for it, he can mean all; and therefore since both the some and many are in the same aforesaid Interest, our Author has kindly proved for me what he himself deny'd, *viz.* that the Pushing for the Repeal, or Explanation of the Acts, has a tendency to disconcert and divide their Interest; unless he can suppose that the some who are unwilling to give the Explanation, will not be disgusted at the *Dissenters* pushing for it: but however it is to be hoped that those some who are
not

not willing to give the Explication, and consequently would be offended at the *Dissenters* pushing it now, may in time be moderated and brought to a better temper and sence of things ; and therefore we have no occasion to give into one Doctor's Opinion, that no time is proper. Come we now to the third Query, which is this.

Whether supposing the Administration should favour your Petition, and thereby disoblige many of their Friends ; your Interest will be sufficient to counterballance such a Loss ?

To this our Answerer says, " it is a known fact, " and must be allowed, that in the Reign of the late " Queen, the *Dissenters*, with the assistance of their " Friends who are against Persecution, chose an " House of Commons of true Patriots, against " the High Church Party, and against a united " and powerful Ministry, who were for a Court " House of Commons, both in opposition to *Whigs* " and *Tories*." Granted, but what then ? Therefore says he, " it may be certainly infered, that the " *Dissenters* with the assistance of the same Friends, " are able to chuse a House of Commons of such " Patriots again, with the countenance and assistance " of the Ministry." We will grant our Answerer's Inference, as well as Premises to be true ; only it is not at all to the purpose : for tho the *Dissenters* with the assistance of their Friends of the established Church, are able to chuse a House of Commons of Patriots, when these their Friends unite with them, yet if many of their Friends, or at least the some which our Author admits to be unwilling to give the Explanations, should be disgusted, and fly off from the *Dissenters*, for their pushing this affair, how shall we be able then to chuse a House of Commons of Patriots ? And I can't be without my fears, that many of their Friends, who voted with the *Dissenters* against the High Church in that time of extremity, when
our

our fears of a Pretender were very strong, would not be willing to join the *Dissenters* again, if they should be too violent in this pushing Business: and therefore I apprehend my Query stands untouch'd, notwithstanding all that our Author has reply'd to it. As to the last sneering Paragraph; "I mean such an Assistance of the Ministry as it may be fit and proper for the Ministry to give." This only serves to shew us that our Answerer is no great Friend to the Ministry; and gives us reason to suspect, that the main promoters of the pushing Design, have no kind Intentions towards the present Administration.

Indeed the Substance of this Answer has been by a certain L—d so often harangu'd upon in the Committee, and without any Notice taken of it; that I wonder it should be brought in here, unless our Answerer had a mind to tell the World how often he, as well as that L—d, can contradict himself without Blushing; and therefore when I compare the Answers already given with the 6th *Nem. Con.* Resolution at *Tbame*, I am apt to be jealous that the same Person had a Hand in both.

The 4th Query is this.

Whether the Administration are most obliged to you or you to them? if you are most obliged to them, which no thinking Man can deny: then must it not be a most rash and preposterous thing, for you to push an Affair of this nature, without the Encouragement of their Assistance, yea, against their Advice?

In answer to this our Author has artfully changed the word Administration, to that of Ministry (for what Reason it is no difficult thing to guess) and then puts a Query upon the former part of mine, *viz.* "who are under the greatest Obligations, they who in common with all other Subjects enjoy the bare Protection of such Laws as are in Being, while there are other Laws in Being, that put them under particular Disabilities and Incapacities; or those who
B " enjoy

“ enjoy the greatest Honours, Places and Emoluments
 “ of a Country, which they could not enjoy without the
 “ Expence and unwearied Struggles of those others
 “ just before mentioned ?” It were no difficult thing
 to give a positive Answer to this Query, with proper
 Reasons to support it, were it prudent so to do, and
 therefore I shall reply (as one did at a late general
 Meeting, where the Author of the Paper of *Reasons*
for Pushing then handed about, was enquired after)
 I am for no Inquisition ; this is a tender Point, and
 to determine it with Proof either way may be at-
 tended with such Inconveniencies, as makes it most
 adviseable to be silent.

As to what our Author says in answer to the latter
 part of our Query. I have only to say, that our
 Author does not want to be inform'd by me, that
 to push for these Explanations at this time is judged
 unadviseable by them above ; that whatever other
 lesser Things the *Dissenters* or others may have pushed
 to Advantage, without the advice of the Admini-
 stration, an Affair of that prodigious importance
 to the whole Kingdom as that under our Considera-
 tion is, ought not to be pushed at this juncture
 against the Advice of the Administration, and other
 Friends ; nor is it probable, if it should be pushed,
 that it would meet with a desired Success without
 their Assistance. As to the Quakers, that they have
 often got reasonable Laws in their Favour is not to
 be wondred at ; first, because as yet they have never at-
 tempted any Thing that may put them upon a Level
 with the establish'd Church, as to Places of Profit or
 Honour ; but only such Things as refer to their own
 Ease, Peace and Liberty in a religions Character ;
 and then they are a wise People, as our Answerer ob-
 serves, wise to take proper Times and Seasons,
 and never suffer themselves to be headed by any
 great Man, nor to proceed in a publick noisy manner
 to draw the Eyes of Enemies upon them, as the *Dis-*
senters

senters have now done, especially in the Country, under the Influence and Management of a certain *Irish* L—d. So that this unadvis'd way of setting out, very much induces me, if there was no other Reasons to be offer'd for it, to wish and desire that the *Dissenters* would desist for the present, and proceed no farther in the Design of Pushing; and I would hope in a short time to be so easy and happy as to find them all unanimous herein.

As to the 5th Query, the Reply to it is so maimed and imperfect, and so little to the purpose, that I shall not take the trouble to repeat the one, or descant upon the other.

The 6th Query stands thus, Whether it be adviseable or grateful for you to fly in the Face of those, who have always approved themselves to be your best Friends, and to throw yourselves into the Arms of your Enemies?

Our Answerer replies to this, by supposing that an Application to the next Session of Parliament, for the Explanation of the *Corporation* and *Test-Acts*, cannot without the greatest Absurdity and Injury to the Ministry, be said to be a flying in their Face; because, says he, it is allowed by those of the Ministers who are least for it, or most against it, to be due to the *Dissenters*; and to be more for the Interest of the Government, than for theirs (that is I suppose, he means) the *Dissenters*, because the Explanations are allowed to be founded in Justice, and like to be attended with so good Consequences. But admitting all this to be true which wants Proof; for it does not appear that the Ministers who are least for the Explanations, or most against them, tho they may allow them to be just, and due to the *Dissenters*, do also allow that they are more for the Interest of the Government than theirs (the *Dissenters*.) And tho some among the *Dissenters* may think that the Pushing the Explanations at this time, may be attended with good Consequences; yet this is not the Sense of the

Ministry, nor do I believe it to be the judgment of the majority of the substantial, prudent and religious among the *Dissenters* ; and therefore I will venture to affirm that, which our Author brands as so great an Absurdity, to push this Affair now contrary to the unanimous Opinion and Advice of the Ministry, and other known Friends, is to fly in their Face, even tho the Reasons given for such their Opinion, should not (as our Author is pleas'd to phrase it) be sufficiently explain'd, or at least, not understood by our Author and such mischievous Heads as his ; yea, tho (for wise and substantial Reasons) they should be kept secret from those, who if they do understand them, have not discretion enough to make a right use of them.

Query 7. Whether you can imagine that the Anti-ministerial Faction, most of which are *Tories*, do sincerely design any real or lasting Advantage to you, by encouraging you to push the Repeal at this Time ? Our Author in answer to this tells us, that it wants Proof ; that he don't know or believe, that it is the Anti-ministerial Faction, or the *Tories* in particular, that encourage the *Dissenters* to push for these Repeals. If our Author don't know, or won't believe this, all that I can do for him is to pity his Ignorance and Infidelity. The Nature of the Thing, *viz.* Pushing at this Time, when there is such an Opposition made to the present Administration, proclaims as on a House-top, that the Anti-ministerial Faction are secretly encouraging the Thing, in order to gain over a Party to themselves at the next Election, strong enough, as they hope, to distress the Administration, by playing us or our Friends of the establish'd Church, or both against it : and I doubt not but if the present Administration had encourag'd the *Dissenters* to petition for the Repeals, their Enemies and ours would have revived the old Cry, that the Church is in Danger, and so have provok'd the Church Interest

Interest against them ; as I am persuaded upon their discouraging it, they will endeavour to raise the *Dissenters* Resentment against them at the next Election : but God forbid, that the *Dissenters* should be so weak as to listen to their pernicious Insinuations. As to what our Answerer says about Letters being sent the last Session of Parliament from the Ministers and Gentlemen in *London*, to their Friends in the Country, that if they would withdraw their Petitions they might depend on it, that they would join with them this Session, *tho every one in the M——y should be against it.* It's possible some Letters of this sort might be writ by some private Hands ; but I will venture to affirm (so much I know of *London*, however obscure my Answerer may think me to be) that this was not the unanimous and uncontradicted Sense of Leading *Dissenters* at *London* ; nor the Sense of any number in proper Concert.

The 8th Query is this,

Whether, supposing the Push be now made, and the *Tories* should vote in your Favour, you would not Poll, at the next Election of Members of Parliament, for such only as voted for the Repeal? The malignant Consequence of which I need not tell you.

Our Answerer here asks why it should be supposed that the *Tories* should vote in favour of the *Dissenters* in this Case, or the *Whigs* against them? That this is no strain'd supposition, and that the *Dissenters* too many of them would in this Case poll as the Query suggests, is very evident, if the fifth *Nem. Con.* Resolution at *Thame* has any meaning in it, wherein it is resolved ; among other things,
 “ that none of us will promise or give a Vote, at
 “ the next Election, for any Candidate that shall
 “ have refused to vote for the Repeal of these
 “ Acts ; or shall not give us proper Assurances to
 “ vote for the Repeal of them, whenever it shall
 “ be moved, in case such Repeals be not moved
 and

“ and obtained in the House of Commons before
 “ the next Election ; and that we will vote for such
 “ as have voted for the Repeal of the Acts, and we
 “ have reason to think continue in the same Opi-
 “ nion, or shall give us proper Assurances to vote
 “ for them, and that we will take all proper occa-
 “ sions to let it be immediately known that this is
 “ our Resolution.”

Properly resolved indeed ! By this means all the *Tories* who voted for this Repeal, and who would tell their Friends the artful design of their so doing, would by the Assistance of the *Dissenters* secure their Election ; but what would become of the poor *Whigs*, who if they voted for this Repeal would be deserted by the some, (which as our Author himself tells us) used to vote with the *Dissenters*, and are not willing to give them the Repeal ; and if they voted against it, would be abandon'd by the *Dissenters* ? fine work this would be indeed.

The ninth Query stands thus.

Whether it would not shew a noble Attachment to his Majesty's Person and Government, unanimously and with disdain to reject an Expedient, however advantageous it may appear to you, that is designedly calculated to oppose them ?

My Answerer seems to be almost as angry at this Query as he is at the twelfth, and calls it a “ most injurious and invidious Query,” and attempts to give some reasons for it. But forbear Passion. I don't suppose that the bare application for explaining these Acts, is designedly calculated to oppose his Majesty's Government, nor does the Query suppose it, for all our Author's Outcry ; nor do I imagine that the *Dissenters* who are misled to push this Affair so unadvisedly at this time have any such Design ; nor do I suppose that the L——d himself who was at the head of this Affair at *Thame*, and is desirous (according to his Instructions in the sixth
Nem.

Nem. Con. Resolution at the aforesaid place) to set himself at the front of it in *London*, has any such design; but nevertheless the Expedient itself of pushing the affair so violently just at this time, is, in my humble Opinion, calculated to oppose the present Administration: and when I consider it as fomented by the *Tories*, which to me is a thing out of question, as well as to a great many others, I dare venture to say it is *designedly* calculated to oppose his Majesty's Person and Government; and as such I trust the *Dissenters* (tho many of them have too unwarily and precipitantly forwarded it) will see reason by and by with unanimous contempt to reject it.

Query the tenth.

Whether, it be prudent to hazard so many valuable Privileges, that you now enjoy, for the sake of pushing that which, if you obtain, it will be of little advantage to you, as a Religious Body?

Our Answerer here thinks fit to ask me, what Privileges the *Dissenters* can hazard? I reply, the Protection of the Civil and Religious Liberties we now enjoy, and which have so long been begrudg'd at by a certain Faction in the Nation: which Privileges are hazarded, not by Petitioning the Parliament for an Explanation of these Laws, which every Subject, by the *Claim of Right*, as our Author well observes, may lawfully do; but by pushing so furiously for the Petitioning at this time, and in the way that has, especially in some Counties, been taken.

Let us be thankful for what we enjoy, and not copy after the *Italian*, who possessing good Health was not content, but was for still improving it higher, and while he was taking Physick for this end, in the working of it he died; but wisely ordered this for his Epitaph,

*I was well,
But would be better,
And now I am here.*

I should be as glad as my Answerer, to have all what he calls *infamous Marks* and *heavy Fetters* taken off from the *Dissenters*; for to be plain with him, tho I desire to bear this Cross till I can get rid of it without running greater Risques, yet I don't court it; but I am still of opinion that the Advantages we should gain as a Religious Body, by getting rid of this Cross would be but little, compared with the Dangers we at this time must run thro' in pushing for this Riddance, as we are a part of the whole Community.

Query eleventh.

Whether it is not more likely to answer your end, unanimously to join with others of your Friends of the established Church, (I might have added modestly to endeavour these Explications) at the beginning of a new Parliament, than furiously of your own Heads to push it near the Expiration of an old one?

What security my Answerer would have me give the *Dissenters*, or what security it may be proper for any others to give the *Dissenters*, that their friends of the establish'd Church will then, to that end, join with them, I won't pretend to determine. If we have only hopes that something of this nature may be effected, or at least attempted, we ought not, against the best advice of our friends, to be Tools to the *Tories* in pushing the affair now; and I still continue in the same sentiment, that the beginning of a Septennial Parliament is a more proper time than the latter end of one, because our Friends who we believe are in Principle inclined to help us, will, should they

they attempt or effect this Repeal, have a longer vacancy to conciliate those others of our Friends, who only in point of Interest would serve us. And notwithstanding we have been so often told to the contrary, as well in Print as in Conversation ; if I am not misinform'd, when the Occasional Conformity and Schism Acts were repeal'd, there were four Sessions to come of that Parliament.

I might, and would have been much larger in my Animadversions on my Answerer thus far, had not a Pamphlet come to my Hands, after I had considered the Answer to four of my *Queries* ; and as that Pamphlet sets the whole Affair in a good light, I would recommend it to the perusal of the Gentlemen who are deputed from the several Congregations of *Protestant Dissenters*, to attend the Report, and receive the Opinion of the Committee relating to this Affair ; the Pamphlet is intituled the Danger of a rash and unseasonable Application for the Repeal of the *Corporation and Test-Acts*.

The twelfth and last *Query*.

Whether a certain *Irish L*——d, who, if common Report may be credited, betrayed your civil Rights, in the beginning of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George*, of glorious Memory, when you might have obtained the Repeal you are now so zealously struggling for, had he not told the King to this effect, that you did not desire it : a Person who has disconcerted and divided you in your Religious Character, and in a way greatly to the Dishonour of the *Protestant Dissenters* : a Person who, for what reasons you need not be told, is justly neglected in a religious and political Respect, and hath little weight in publick Affairs : a Person who designs, if he can, to make himself significant, by forwarding this *Poultenian Scheme*, for so I call your pushing Design, is a fit person to conduct such an affair as this is ; wherein the Stability of his Majesty's Government,

the Peace of the Kingdom, and the Honour and Security of the *Protestant Dissenters* are so much concern'd?

Great pains are taken, and many Pages are spent, by my Answerer to vindicate his, what shall I call him, Hero, Patriot, Patron. We have a loud Outcry of infamous Attempts to traduce, blast, stab this L——d's Character. Declamatory Appeals are made to others to raise their Indignation against the Writer of the Reasons against Pushing, &c. and abundance of stir there is, to advance this L——d's Reputation, and set forth his Worth and Significancy. I am apt to think that the other *Queries* had lain quiet and untouch'd, had it not been for the sake of this last; which I the rather apprehend, because of the weak Answers, which, (I hope I have shown,) are given to them. But why all this Pother and Noise? For my part I should never have meddled with this L——d, nor his former Conduct, did he not now officiously set himself at the head of a Party to distress an honest, innocent People, that he was the main Instrument of fatally dividing some time ago. Where so great and valuable an Interest as that of the *Protestant Dissenters* lies at stake, the man who puts it into such a dangerous Hazard, by setting up himself at the head of it, and pushing on violent measures, that tend to disconcert and destroy it; ought to be inform'd what the World says of him. I don't know that the high Character of any particular private Person should be put in the balance against the Damage he is likely to bring on so noble, extensive, and useful an Interest; and if there was but so much as a suspicion of an Injury formerly done to that Interest by him, it ought to be told, to prevent weak and unwary persons from being seduc'd by his present mischievous Artifices. The *Dissenters* are allowed to be, in general, a Sober, Honest and Religious set of People, and whosoever undertakes to head them,

ought

ought to be one of a sound Mind, of approv'd Veracity, of strict Honour and Fidelity, and of undissembled Piety; a Person, who, if possible, was never guilty of any publick and private Blot.

My Answerer I find, by often mentioning the Title, and in such a forced and awkward way as he does, is not a little nettled, that I should give his Hero the epithet of *Irish* L——d: for my part I had no design in it, but to distinguish him from an *English* Peer, and I hope this won't be reckon'd any part of my attempt to stab his Character. However, rather than offend a weak Brother, I will leave out the term *Irish* for the time to come. And now to the matter of Scandal charged upon the Author of the Reasons. *Query*, Whether a certain *Irish* Lord, who, if common Report may be credited, betray'd your civil Rights in the beginning of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George* of glorious Memory, when you might have obtain'd the Repeal; you are now so zealously struggling for, had he not told the King to this effect, that you did not desire it, &c. Now in answer to this, my Author says, " 'tis well known that this L——d has sacrificed his own Interest in many Instances, to the Rights of the *Protestant Dissenters*." I don't know, for my own part, what Interest of his this L——d has ever sacrificed to the Rights of the *Protestant Dissenters*: he may have on other accounts sustain'd Losses as well as other *Dissenters*, who once were led aside by a fatal and shameful Scheme; but as to the sacrificing his own Interest for the sake of his adherence to the *Protestant Dissenters*, I declare I am a stranger to it; who I won't deny that our Author may know something of this nature, because he appears to be very intimate with his Lordship's Affairs. However, if accounts were balanced, I don't doubt but it would be made manifest, that this L——d has got more by the *Dissenting Interest*, than ever he lost for it.

Our Answerer is pleas'd to charge it upon the Author of the Reasons, that he himself coin'd, stamp'd, and uttered this Report, and then pass'd it for common. I can assure this Answerer, that the Author of the Reasons did not coin this Report, and then say it was common; this has been a common Report for many Years, and not merely in the conversation of the Writer of that Paper, (whose acquaintance and conversation, by the way, is not very narrow and confined.)

But there are thousands to testify that it was a common Report, long before it was inserted in the *Queries*, and as such, and no other, the Author of the Reasons mentioned it; tho our Answerer would endeavour, by putting it into a categorical Proposition to make the World believe that it was only the Author's own private Assertion.

'Tis true, it is hard for any one to affirm what Conversation this L——d had with his late Majesty, when he had the honour of being admitted to his Closet; and at this distance of time to prove that this L——d did say such words, or to that effect, that the Author of the Reasons sets down. But what then? will it follow from hence that it is but a pretended Report, or that there is not (so much as) the least pretence to colour it? There would never be this Smoak without some Fire, and what almost every body says.—This Report was spread and received when this L——d was in the height of his Reputation and Grandure, and that not only by those whom he may look upon as his Enemies, but by his hearty Friends. The Currency of the Report no man, who is acquainted beyond his own Chimney Corner, can deny; tho the truth of the Fact may be disputed: but after all, what does our Answerer offer to set aside the verity of this common Report? why truly in an artful way, he tells us of abundance of Facts of the late King's Reign, some of which I know, and others I won't pretend to disbelieve, tho

I confess I am ignorant of them ; nor do I see any one who was not most familiar with this L—d and his Management in the Affairs related, could be privy to them. But supposing all related in the Answer to be known Fact, and common Report too, it does not follow from thence that this L—d might not say so and so to the late King ; nay, it was very well known at that time, that this L—d was against the Repeals ; and I doubt not but many may be found to witness the same, both from his Conversation at the *Fountain-Tavern* in *Stocks-Market*, and his Conduct at *Bristol*. And if we were to look as far back as the Union itself, there is sufficient ground to believe he was of the same Opinion, and artfully dishearten'd the *Scotch* from insisting on the Repeal of the *Test-Act*, for which kind Service this self-denying L—d accepted the small favour of a thousand Pound *per Annum*, to say no more.

It will be said the Reason why that L—d did discourage the *Dissenters* Pushing for the Repeal of the *Corporation* and *Test-Acts* at that time was, because the Ministry was against it ; and therefore it was not in the power of any Man to get such a Repeal. Very good ! Why should not the same Reason determine to the same Conduct now ? Why should we Push against the Ministry now ? For my own part, I acknowledge, I have never seen any Reasons to convince me that this is a proper time to Push this matter ; and I have read most, if not all, that has been wrote on that side of the Question : and therefore I must still protest against Pushing now, and I doubt not but I have the Majority of the conscientious *Dissenters* with me.

My Answerer seems to bear very hard upon me, by insinuating that my Pen is venal and malicious, and that I am an obscure Hackney-writer, who have undertook to publish a Two-penny Libel ; but supposing I should not be all this, what then ? It's only saying that he did not mean me, and there is an-end
of

of it. But supposing he does mean me, I an't angry with him at all for it ; only a Writer that is pleading so much against groundless Surmises and Insinuations, might as well have not given out such a silly Innuendo. It is an old Saying, the Woman would not have sought for her Daughter in the Oven if she had not been there herself ; jealous Heads are usually accompany'd with guilty Hearts. I wish my Answerer don't prove to be a venial Hackney-writer ; for tho he may think to skreen himself, because, forsooth, his Paper has Price Four-pence at the beginning of it ; yet I must tell him the World will look on him as never the better for that ; there are Four-penny and Six-penny as well as Twelve-penny and Three-penny mercenary Scriblers. But to come to Confession, I positively declare, that if my Answerer gets no more by Writing, than I have done, he will make but very poor Earnings of it.

Nay, suffer me only one Word more as to this : if the Author of the Reasons, and the Answerer were both known, I perswade myself the former would no more be suspected of being a mercenary Pen than the latter, let him be who he will. I have a Character as well as he, and I don't care to lose it ; to be reckoned a venal or malicious Writer, no more than he does.

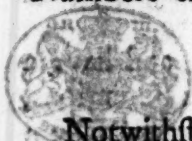
Our Answerer seems to keep as close to this L—d as his own Shadow ; he is with him, I find, in all Places and Companys where publick Business is done, and is Master, if he tells his Story right, of his Conduct both in political and religious Societys. He can tell us both what he did in the House of Commons, and at private Meetings of the *Dissenters*. But I can inform our Author, that tho this L—d did oppose the sending the Advices to *Salter's-Hall*, yet many plainly saw it was because he suspected they would not be approved by the majority of the Ministers ; nor indeed (for all our Author's say so) were they in Fact espoused by the majority of the Dissenting Mini-

Ministers at *Salter's-Hall*, notwithstanding the Country *Posse*, who (tho they had no Right to appear at that Meeting) came in to forward them. Indeed they proved an unhappy Bone of Contention to us, and when the Difference, they made among us, will be compromis'd, God only knows.

Our Author must be very free with, and have a most intimate knowledge of, this L—d's Intentions, to tell us that he does not take this Scheme to be a *Poultenian* Scheme; and yet he says in the next words, it is not of much Consequence whose Scheme it is, provided it be a good one: by which Tenderness in speaking of this matter, there is great room to suspect either that our Answerer, or this L—d, or both are in the Secret; that he is pursuing no private Views, or Passions; and that to the acting as a Protestant and an *Englishman*, as a most dutiful Subject to the King, and as an unfeigned Lover of his Country, this Lord has done himself the Honour on every occasion to sacrifice every private Interest and Passion of his own. I hope it is all true; but who made our Author this L—d's Godfather, to promise in his Name that he *ever will*?

Far be it from me to charge this Lord with being an Enemy to any Man; but methinks none but this Lord himself can be empowered to say "that he is not, or ever was, an Enemy to any Man in the World," and I don't know how HE can say it with a good Grace, when he reflects upon the unhappy *Harburgh* Affair, wherein he seemed at least to act as an Enemy to many, and drew on himself many Enemies, besides great and personal Inconveniences. I shall add no more, for I have taken up already too much Ink and Paper in this personal Controversy. As my Answerer tells me, that this L—d (who I suppose has told him the same) heartily prays God to forgive me; I suppose for what I have suggested, which he thinks to be to his Dishonour. So he may tell

tell this L—d again, that I heartily pray God to forgive him, all the Misery and Distress he has brought at any time upon the *Protestant Dissenting Interest*, and which he is now in the opinion of great Numbers exposing it to. *



The Conclusion.

Notwithstanding all that I have wrote either in my Reasons or these Animadversions, I freely declare I bear no Enmity or Ill-will to any Man alive, much less to that L—d whom I am thought to treat so unjustly. It's the Cause and Interest of the Nation in general, and of the *Protestant Dissenters* in particular, that I am pleading for; and I can't bear to see this distressed by the artful or mistaken management of any great Man. Tho should I be convinced any time hereafter, that in my abundant Zeal for a noble Cause, as I think, I have injuriously treated the L—d B—n's Character, I would in as publick a manner as H-E should desire acknowledge my Fault, and beg his Pardon. I own I am against the Push at this time, not purely because the Ministry says it is not proper, as tho they only design'd in a courtly way to put the Affair off, which is what the *Pushers* suggest; but because in my own Conscience, upon the maturest Thought, and the most weighty Reasons, at least as they appear to me, I cannot think it proper; and was I honoured with one of the highest Stations in the Kingdom, I believe I should be of the same Mind. Nevertheless I would wait and pray for some happy Time, which I hope won't be very long, when the Explication of those Acts, that the *Protestant Dissenters* have for many Years been wishing for, will be made to the Safety of the Nation, and Advantage of the *Dissenters*; and I trust, to use the words of my Answerer, *That the expectation of the simple will not slay them.*

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